

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 MC-02 EB-11 ACDA-19 L-03 IGA-02

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO USMISSION NATO

INFO USCINCEUR

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USNMR SHAPE

UFLBAA/CINCUSAFE

DEPT OF COMMERCE

CHIEF MAAG BRUSSELS

AEMBASSY BONN 1921

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSES

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 1931

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP, MASS, NATO, FR

SUBJECT: IMPORTANT PROJECT - REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT FR F-104.

REF: USNATO 0215

1. SUMMARY. FOUR COUNTRIES HAVE ORDERED ALMOST 200

MIRAGE F-1 AIRCRAFT. SUPER F-1 IS UNDER DEVELOPMENT BUT

THERE ARE NO KNOWN ORDER FOR IT. DASSAULT, PRODUCER

OF MIRAGE AIRCRAFT, HAS LONG RECORD OF TAILORING ITS AIRCRAFT

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TO CUSTOMERS NEEDS. MOREOVER, IT HAS BEEN RECEPITIVE TO

CO-PRODUCTION OF LICESING ARRANGEMENTS WITH PURCHASING COUNTRIES.
END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING BACKGROUND INFORMATION ELABORATES ON INFORMATION
IN PARA 5, STATE 12937, I RESPONSE TO REFTEL:

3. THE GOF HAS ORDERED 105 MIRAGES F-1 AIRCRAFT FOR ITS OWN AIR FORCE. THIS IS THE F-1C, AND ALL-WEATHER INTERCEPTOR WITH SNECMA ATAR 09K-50 ENGINE WITH 15,800 POUNDS THRUST WITH AFTERBURNER. SOME AIRCRAFT ARE IN OPERATIONAL FAF QUADRONS WITH THE BALANCE BEING DELIERED. THREE COUNTRIES HAVE ALSO ORDERED FOLLOWING QUANTITIES THIS VERSION OF THE F-1: SOUTH AFRICA FORTY-EIGHT, SPAIN FIFTEEN, AND ZAIRE SEVENTEEN. AVINS MARCEL DASSAULT (AMD) HAD PROPOSED TO OFFER THREE OTHER VERSIONS: THE F-1E WITH DIFFERENT AVIONICS FOR AN ATTACK ROLE; THE F-1A (MULTI-PURPOSE) WHICH WOULD BE A STRIPPED OF AVIONICS VERSION, AND THEREFORE CHEAPER (FOLLOWING THE PATTERN OF THE MIRAGE-V AS A CLEAR WEATHER ADVANCED VERSION OF THE MIRAGE III); AND THE F-1B TWO SEAT TRAINER. NONE OF THESE VARIANTS HAS BEEN ORDERED TO OUR KNOWLEDGE. AMD IS PROCEEDING WITH A SUPER F-1 VERSION TO BE EQUIPPED WITH THE SNECMA M-53 ENGINE WITH 18,650 POUNDS OF THRUST WITH AFTERBURNER. THERE ARE NO KNOWN ORDERS FOR THIS VARIANT OF THE F-1.

4. AND HAS A LONG RECORD OF TAILORING ITS AIRCRAFT TO A CUSTOMERS NEEDS. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE HAVE BEEN FIVE VERSIONS OF THE MIRAGE IIIB SERIES; TWO OF THE C SERIES, SIX OF THE D SERIES, FOUR OF THE R SERIES, PLUS AN O SERIES FOR AUSTRALIA AND AN S SERIES FOR SWITZERLAND. THUS, IF A CUSTOMER SHOULD WANT HE CURRENT PRODUCTION F-1, AMD WOULD NO DOUBT TAILOR IT TO ONE OF THE VERSIONS MENTIONED IN PARA THREE, OR, TO A COMPLETELY NEW SERIES. PRODUCTION AIRRAFT COULD BE DIVERTED FROM FAF DELIVERIES AND THE EOF WOULD NO DOUBT APPROVE SUCH A DIVERSION.

5. AS FOR LONG TERM PRODUCTION, FROM 1960 THROGH 1973, AMD HAS SOLD NEARLY 1,250 MIRAGE III, MIRAGE V AND F-1 AIRCRAFT TO SEVENTEEN COUNTRIES IN ADDITION TO FRENCH REQUIREMENTS. MIRAGE II SALES WERE: 1960 ISRAEL; 1961 AUSTRALIA, SWITZERLAND AND SOUTH AFRICA; 1966 LEBANON; 1967 PAKISTAN; 1970 SPAIN, BRAIL,
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ARGENTINA AD AUSTRALIA. THE MIRAGE V SALES WERE: 1967 PERU; 1968 BELGIUM; 1970 LIBYA AND COMOMBIA; 1971 VENEZUELA; 1972 AUB DHABI (PERSIAN GUL) AND SOUTH AFRICA. AS MENTIONED ABOVE, F-1 SALES HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE FAF, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN AND ZAIRE. CURRENT MIRAGE PRODUCTION RATE (ALL SRIES) AT BORDEAUX-MERIGNAC IS ABOUT 10 PER MONTH WITH CURRENT ORDERS ENSURING PRODUCTION TO ABOUT END 1976.

6. THE GOF AND *MD HAVE BEEN RECEPTIVE TO SOME FORM OF CO-PRODUCTION OR LICENSING AGREEMENT FOR TTE MIRAGE SERIES OF AIRCRAFT. BELGIUM, SOUTH AFRICA, AUSTRALIA, SWITZERLAND AND SPAIN HAVE SUCH AGREEMENTS FOR PAST AND FUTURE PRODUCTION AND/ OR ASSEMBLY. CURRENTLY, SOUTH AFRICA AND SPAIN HAVE LICENSING AGREEMENT FOR THE F-1. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THE DETAILS OF THESE AGREEMENTS. NOR DO WE HAVE INFORMATION ON FRENCH CO- PRODUCTION RAPIDLY PEAKING AND DECLINING AS SUGGESTED IN REFTEL. ASSUMING COUNTRIES NOW OPERATING OLDER MIRAGES WOULD WANT REPLACEMENTS IN THE FUTURE, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT PRODUCTION WOULD CONTINUE AT A RATE DEPENDENT ON SUCCESS OF FUTURE SALES PROGRAMS.

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